

Screening for Glaucoma in the Primary Care Setting

1. Determine the following for all veterans over 65 years of age or African-American veterans over 40 years of age:
 - Is there a family history of glaucoma in a first degree relative (parent or sibling)?
 - Has the veteran had an eye examination by either an optometrist or ophthalmologist, and if so when?
2. The significant risk factors for glaucoma are:
 - Age (over 65 years or over 40 if African-American)
 - African-American ethnicity
 - First degree relative (parent or sibling) with glaucoma
3. Veterans with a prior eye examination:
 - 2 or 3 Risk factors present = assure eye examination within the past year and advise of need for annual eye examinations. If eye examination more than 1 year previous, refer to section 4 below.
 - 1 Risk factor present = assure examination within the past 2 years and advise of need of an eye examination every 2 years. If examination more than 2 years ago, refer to section 4 below.

4. Veterans without a prior eye examination or did not meet criteria is section 3 above:
 - 3 Risk factors = schedule an eye examination within the next 3 months.
 - 2 Risk factors = schedule an eye examination within the next 6 months.
 - 1 Risk factors = schedule an eye examination within the next year.
5. Eye examinations should be performed by either an optometrist or ophthalmologist.
6. Inform the veteran of the lifelong consequence of glaucoma.

VA access to full guidelines: <http://www.oqpg.med.va.gov/cpg/cpg.htm>

DoD access to full guidelines: <http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/Qmo>

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